GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2219
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2007
CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD TO MT. EVEREST BY CHINA
Bhadana Shri Avtar Singh;Mishra Dr. Rajesh Kumar;Sajjan Kumar Shri

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China is considering to connect its base camp located near 'Mount Everest' with road;

(b) if so, whether international environmentalists have expressed their concern over its adverse impact on the environment;

(c) whether the Government has taken note of the progress made by China in this regard;

(d) if so, whether the Government has raised any objection in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a)-(e) Government have seen media reports stating that China plans to construct a highway on Mount Everest , which is located on the border between Nepal and the Tibet Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China. According to these reports, construction is likely to be completed in four months at an estimated cost of US$ 19.7 million. According to media reports, the Chinese side has said that they would be mindful of environmental concerns while doing so. Government keep a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on India's national interests and take all necessary measures to safeguard these interests.